

BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AREA FIRE BREAKS

A public meeting to discuss BLM's proposed Longfield Greenstrip/fuels treatment project and the Elko North fuel break/greenstrip project will be held at the BLM Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, on Wednesday, April 30, 2003, 6:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

BLM Fire Management Officer Joe Freeland said, "The purpose of these projects is to protect homes and private property from wildland fires. Greenstrips are swaths of land planted with fire-resistant vegetation to slow or stop the spread of wildland fires. Greenstrips also provide a defensible space around communities at risk from wildland fires."

"These projects are part of the National Fire Plan which is a nationwide effort to protect those communities at risk." Freeland added.

The Longfield Greenstrip/fuels treatment project would be done on about 950 acres of public land about 18 miles north of Elko off the Mountain City Highway (Highway 225), just north of the Adobe Estates. The 6800+ acre Adobe Fire in 2000 burned areas just a few miles east/northeast of the proposed Longfield Greenstrip. If Adobe Estates continues to expand north in the future, the greenstrip will help protect the homes.

Mowers would be used to knock down the thick sagebrush in 200-300 foot wide swaths along or near unimproved roads adjacent to Highway 225. In addition to fire protection, the project is expected to improve wildlife habitat diversity and benefit livestock as well. After mowing, the areas would be seeded with perennial forbs and grass seed. The project is scheduled to be done in Summer 2003.

The Elko North fuel break/greenstrip project would extend north of Interstate 80 from Elko to Osino. The project would be done in three phases over the next three years. Phase one would be done in 2003 and would involve 160 acres from west of Elko northeast to the Mountain City Highway. Phase one of the project would include brush beating along existing roads in the area to effectively widen the roads, thus creating a fuel break that could slow or possibly stop a fast moving wildland fire. Where there are no roads, the greenstrip would go cross country. The greenstrip would also be seeded with a fire resistant species of grass.

Phase two would be created in 2004 and would consist of a 300-foot greenstrip from northeast of North 5th Street to above the Kittridge Canyon community and extending to the

community of Coin and would involve 286 acres. Phase three would be created in 2005 and would consist of a 300-foot wide greenstrip from the community of Coin and extend to the north end of Osino and would involve 284 acres. The total length of the Elko North Greenstrip would be twenty miles long and would involve a total of 731 acres.

The BLM also plans to discuss how livestock grazing would be managed in the short term to allow the seeded plants to establish, and how the greenstrips would be managed and maintained over the long term.

For more information about the public meeting or Elko North project, contact Jeff Birrell BLM Fire Operations Supervisor at (775) 753-0318 or email Jeff_Birrell@nv.blm.gov

For more information about the public meeting or Longfield project, contact BLM Fire Operations Supervisor Mike Pope at (775) 753-0391 or email Michael_Pope@nv.blm.gov .

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